

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P34562-P0	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/009882	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 05 July 2004 (05.07.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 06 August 2003 (06.08.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |
4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

		Date of issuance of this report 08 May 2006 (08.05.2006)
The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Masashi Honda	
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
Applicant's or agent's file reference P34562-P0	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/009882	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 06.08.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.		

<p>1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application <p>2. FURTHER ACTION</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.</p> <p>If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.</p> <p>For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.</p> <p>3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.</p>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/009882

Box No. I	Basis of this opinion
1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.	
<input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).	
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:	
a. type of material	
<input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing	
<input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing	
b. format of material	
<input type="checkbox"/> in written format	
<input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form	
c. time of filing/furnishing	
<input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed.	
<input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form.	
<input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.	
3. <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.	
4. Additional comments:	

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No. PCT/JP2004/009882

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-6</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP, 11-246226, A (Mitsui Mining & Smelting Co., Ltd.), 14 September, 1999 (14.09.99), full text

Document 2: JP, 2001-15106, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 19 January, 2001 (19.01.01), full text

Document 3: WO, 2002-41422, A1 (Toshiba Battery Co., Ltd.), 23 May, 2002 (23.05.02), full text

Document 4: WO, 2002-69420, A1 (FDK Corp.), 6 September, 2002 (06.09.02), full text

The subject matters of claims 1-6 appear to be novel and to involve an inventive step.

None of the documents 1-4 cited in the ISR describes the constitution of claims 1-6, in which (1) the half-value width of the X-ray diffraction peak of the (001) plane of spherical β -nickel oxyhydroxide is 0.6° or less and (2) the ratio H/W of the peak height H to the half-value width W is 10000 or more. This constitution is not considered to be obvious to a person skilled in the art either.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

A small half-value width is considered to mean good crystallinity, and it is known that if the crystallinity of nickel oxyhydroxide becomes better, the proton diffusion rate becomes low. The constitution included in claims 1-6 in which when the half-value width of the peak of the (001) plane of nickel oxyhydroxide is, for example, 0.4°, excellent heavy load discharge characteristics can be shown, is not sufficiently technically supported by the specification.